



# The Cutting Edge

Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith and Mineral Club

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## President's Message

Our show took in ~2100 paying adults, down from ~2600 paying adults in 2019. I attribute the loss to our out-of-date show mailing list. All of this will self-correct over time. Gross revenue from the show was ~\$61,000. Expenses are still being tabulated, so I don't have a profit figure for you yet. We did good!

I have not heard of any major problems regarding our 2022 show. There are some minor things we can do better for next year.

We now have enough money in the kitty to cover our old workshop and rent a new place. In early November, I will send around a questionnaire to poll how many club members would use a workshop this winter. With all of the viruses currently making the rounds, I will not be attending until next spring.

Kerry Day  
OLMC President

The club has a **GoFundMe** page, if anyone wants to donate to on-going storage costs and for the future workshop rent. We truly appreciate all donations.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-the-ottawa-lapsmith-and-mineral-club>

## Club Survey for In-Person Meetings

In October, a survey was sent to all active club members to gauge interest for in-person meetings in either a public or private setting. Results are being tabulated by Member Chair Nathalie Bourget. She expects to have a report ready in early December.

All members are invited to submit articles, proposals, and thoughts that could be included in the newsletters. Also, feel free to send your Classified ads by e-mail to: [news@olmc.ca](mailto:news@olmc.ca)

*Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club presents...*



## OLMC On-Line Auction

### Nov. 19 – Dec. 3

<https://32auctions.com/olmcnov2022>

Featuring:

- Unique & beautiful jewellery made by club members
- Selected minerals and lapidary rough



Local pick-up is free, \$20 delivery charge for shipping  
Details will be posted on the club website <https://olmc.ca>

Each club member can put up to ten items in the auction – five open bids and five “buy it now” bids. **Deadline for submissions is November 12.**

Electronic submissions (item descriptions and photos) should go to Vice-President Matthew Poirier at "[vicepres@olmc.ca](mailto:vicepres@olmc.ca)". Physical items should be delivered to President Kerry Day before November 12, at 101 Promenade Avenue, Nepean, Ontario.

### MIG ONLINE Meeting

**Date:** November 21 at 7:00 pm.

**Guest Speaker:** Glenn Poirier

**Topic:** True Names: Using X-ray microanalysis to ID minerals when your eyes aren't good enough

Glenn Poirier has been working with electron microscopy and microanalysis for over 30 years.

OLMC members can join the Mineral Interest Group to get invites to meetings. Contact [montgomeryjr50@gmail.com](mailto:montgomeryjr50@gmail.com)

**For sale:** Mineralogical Records collection, plus and magazines (some in mint condition). \$400 + Shipping (Canada Post).

Contact: Steve Brawley in Belleville  
[steveboy52@hotmail.com](mailto:steveboy52@hotmail.com)

**Free to Good Home:** Kerry Day has a 25x42x1.5 inch piece of white laminated pressboard suitable for mounting saws on. Contact [kaygeederocks@gmail.com](mailto:kaygeederocks@gmail.com)

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## Early Earth Geology Inferred from Oldest Martian Meteorite

Geologists studied a meteorite from Northwest Africa, and determined it was ejected 5–10 Ma ago from the Karratha crater in the Terra Cimmeria-Sirenum province on Mars.

The brecciated meteorite dated at ~4.5 Ga old contains the oldest igneous material.

Published in July 2022, in [Nature Communications](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-31444-8), the findings show this province is part of the primordial martian crust that formed shortly after the planet accreted. The science team proposes this area for future Mars landing missions to study early crustal processes.

Geologists are using meteorites from other terrestrial planets to form a model of Earth’s early crust, since it has irrevocably changed by various processes.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-31444-8>



*Ancient artifacts discovered during the construction of the Thessaloniki metro will be displayed at the stations. Credit: Greek Ministry of Culture; NonAttribution-ShareAlike*

## 300,000 Ancient Artifacts Found During Thessaloniki Metro Works

The Greek Ministry of Culture & Sports announced on September 7 that more than three hundred thousand ancient artifacts were found during the construction of the Thessaloniki metro system.

A large selection of these artifacts will be displayed in two separate museums at metro

stations that will open in 2023. The findings highlight the ancient past and development of the modern Macedonian city.

Structures of an ancient city dating to the fourth century B.C. were first discovered in 2012 during excavations for one of the metro depots. Part of a Roman cemetery from the second to fourth centuries AD was found near another station. The graves held offerings of ceramic and glass vases, clay figurines, gold and silver jewellery, and coins.

Further excavations revealed parts of a Byzantine market along the main road, the so-called Avenue of the Byzantines. Archeologists discovered workshops for the manufacture of jewellery, metalwork, glass, and ceramics, including workbenches, tools, jewellery-making matrices, and unfinished ceramics.

<https://greekreporter.com/2022/09/08/300000-ancient-artifacts-found-thessaloniki-metro-works/>

## Pretty Pricy in Pink

The 11.15-carat Williamson Pink Star diamond was sold for \$57.7 million in Hong Kong on Oct. 7, setting a world record for the highest price per carat for a diamond sold at auction.

The price of \$5.2 million per carat beats the previous record of \$4 million for a blue diamond sold in 2015.

Sotheby's reprinted a statement from the Gemological Institute of America that said this stone "is among the rarest of all gemstones. Attaining a Fancy Vivid color grade with pink diamonds in this size requires a very strong inherent bodycolor in the rough crystal. It is unusual for pink diamonds to occur with a strong depth of color or saturation in any size. In addition to its exceptional color, the clarity is Internally Flawless – a special combination."

The Williamson Pink Star is named after two other famous pink diamonds -- the 23.60-carat Williamson Pink Diamond presented to the late Queen Elizabeth II as a wedding gift in 1947, and the 59.60-carat Pink Star that sold for a record \$71.2 million at auction in 2017.

Both the Williamson Pink Star and Queen Elizabeth's diamond came from the Williamson mine in Tanzania, famous for its pink diamonds.

<https://apnews.com/article/entertainment-hong-kong-c5ccffec7126be64bbf38539bf207588>

## Tonga's New Island: They Grow Up So Fast

Satellite images show volcanic eruptions took 11 hours to create a new island in Tonga on September 10.

The volcano continued to gush lava, gas, and steam while erupting multiple times a day.

As of September 19, the new island measures 15 meters above sea level, 211 meters north to south, and 218 meters east to west.

Three tectonic plates meet at Tonga's Home Reef, which NASA calls "the fastest converging boundary in the world."

Tonga is two roughly parallel chains of around 170 islands in the south-western Pacific. Only 36 islands are inhabited.



*Satellite imagery shows the Home Reef volcano in Tonga on Sept. 14. Credit: Lauren Dauphin / NASA Earth Observatory*

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/island-emerges-sea-only-11-185816011.html>

### ***Upsidedown Turnaround Rising Star Chamber***

Lee Berger has a video of a recent journey into the western aspect of the Rising Star cave system called the Rising Star Chamber. The claustrophobic entrance into the cave system is known by local cavers as "upside down turnaround".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9nVzg4tEE0>

# Product Reviews & Tools

From the Silversmiths Meeting 2021-09-21

## Wally Precision Bezel 90-degree Shear

These precision bezel cutters are available on Gesswein and other supply sites. Insert bezel wire using the guide, and then cut with the shears. The shears do not make a nice cut, especially if the metal is thin. The shears may not be aligned at 90 degrees to the guide. Recommendation: do not buy.

## Brass-Steel Bow-Ring Closing Plier

There are more expensive fully brass versions. If you are making bands using thicker gauge wire, and you need to get the ends to meet, use this tool to help you close the gap. Insert some leather, suede, or other material between the ring and the tool to prevent scratches. This tool can also be used to bend wire at 90-degree bends.



## Universal Holder or Hand Vise

It is a versatile tool. Use the vise to clamp metal pieces. Use the moveable tubes in the perforated head to hold ends of wire such as ends of rings, or use the tubes as a spirograph to make wire shapes. For example, arrange the tubes in a square, place a ring over them, then open the head to turn the ring into a square.

One con: it only comes with a wooden handle or a suction cup to hold, so you must use one hand to hold the tool.



## Dremel Engraver

Not just for engraving. This tool has a brass piece in it that can be used to hammer a bezel. There is a lot of control as long as the tool tip is narrow and rounded.

## Square Bezel Pusher



This tool is used to hammer the bezel down tight to the stone. File the sharp edges down; otherwise, they will create indentations in the bezel. The large, rounded handle is for pushing with a hand, but a chasing hammer can also be used. The bezel pusher may be sold as part of set of bezel tools.

## Stone Setter for Bezel Cups

Use the stone setter to set prongs, and also bezels for round stones. There are multiple sizes available, sometimes available in kits, in case you use a variety of stone sizes.

## Mini Barrel Rotary Tumbler



The group looked at the **KD-6808 Mini-Tumbler** from Vevor, which did not come with any instructions, but there are videos on YouTube. Metal

shot is included, but reviews say it is not stainless steel.

**Nylon hammer** is a good tool for hammering metal back in to shape after shearing, which can cause a slight curl.

### Vacuum Vise

Use it to hold your universal holder or anything else. It clamps to the table, and it comes with a suction cup. The vise is on a lockable ball swivel, so it can be set to any angle.

**Pro Tip:** Use **Jett Ballistic pellets**

melted down to form a putty, and then push it onto a partly open

**Universal Holder**

clamped in the

**Vacuum Vise**, and

then put your piece

in the putty to work on it. When you are done working on the piece, put the putty in warm water to soften it and remove the piece.



### Wire End Rounder

Indispensable for ear wires. It has a very tiny cup on the end, so rather than filing down and polishing ear wires, hold the wire in the cup and grind for a few passes.

**Multi-Bit Screw Driver** handle or any handle with an adjustable collet can be used to hold tool burrs.

### Cordless Sheet Metal Shear

It cuts metal up to 14 gauge of any length in straight lines. The smallest circle radius is 1.5 inches. The line is clean, and there are no sparks. The handheld version is a bit heavy, but there is a bench version.



### Hydraulic Press

This is a pricey alternative to the rolling mill. It is not recommended if it will only be used for jewellery making. It comes with steel plates, and optional spacers, a pump, and manual controls. Pressure can be applied beyond 8,000 PSI. It takes fifteen seconds. It is not as effective as a rolling mill when using soft materials for imprinting patterns on metal, but it does not cause the metal to curl or deform. There are smaller manual presses capable of one or two tons of pressure.

**Pro Tip:** Use a sheet of urethane between the piece and the press plate to spread pressure around. Do not use tape to hold pieces together in the press because it is super difficult to remove.



## Goddess on the Throne

A 6,000-year-old terracotta statuette called the "Goddess on the Throne" is on display at Kosovo Museum.

The Vinča art piece was found in 1956 in Pristina, Kosovo. It dates from the Neolithic era and early bronze age of Southeastern Europe, and is presumed to depict a deity.

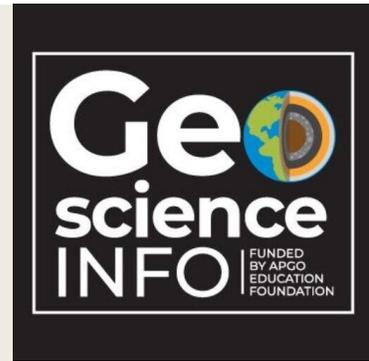
The "Goddess on the Throne" is among similar figurines at the museum. They do not exhibit the exaggerated female physical traits as other statuettes of that period. Instead, they are known for their angular, vaguely anthropomorphic heads.

Photo Credit: Max Cortesi, Atlas Obscura User

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/goddess-on-the-throne>

## Blogging Site Seeks Fun Articles

GeoScienceINFO (<https://geoscienceinfo.com/>), which is part of the non-profit charity APGO Education Foundation (<https://www.apgoedfoundation.ca>), welcomes people to send articles of interest to be published on their web site. They ask people in geology and related fields to write about their experiences in a fun and relaxed way. Preferred articles are 1000-2000 words with photos, especially if they are your own original photos. The publisher will find photos for you, if needed. There is no indication that you will be paid for the work, or that you will retain copyright over the material of your submission.



- Geoscience Today (general interest)
- Student Spotlight (grad/undergrad/PHD student experience)
- Geo Career (what you do and how you got to your position)

Interested parties should submit articles to [BeneathYourFeetBlog@geoscienceinfo.com](mailto:BeneathYourFeetBlog@geoscienceinfo.com) in a word editing format. The publisher reserves the right to edit the articles before publishing.



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## Star of Adam Sapphire

This giant ovate blue star sapphire is now the largest star sapphire in the world. It was found in Ratnapura, Sri Lanka in August 2015.

Gemmologists have certified that the gem weighs 1404.49 carats (280.898 g). The previous record holder is the Black Star of Queensland, weighing 733 carats (146.6 g).

The Star of Adam is part of a display in a private collection. Speculators have appraised its value at a fantastical \$300 million, but so far the highest price a star sapphire has received at auction is \$17.3 million for the "Blue Belle of Asia" in November 2019.



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## OLMC Field Trip Reports by Kerry Day

In late September, the MIG conducted a field trip to the Hogbomite occurrence southwest of Perth. At this locality, there is a Calcite vein dyke which contains black Spinel crystals and Corundum pseudomorphs thereof. Approximately ten people attended. I didn't hear of anyone finding anything spectacular, but everyone seemed to have a good time. To hear about MIG field trips, get on their mailing list by contacting [montgomeryjr50@gmail.com](mailto:montgomeryjr50@gmail.com).



*Hobomite, courtesy of Mindat.org*



*Hornblende, courtesy of Wikimedia*

The Saturday after Thanksgiving, five of us braved the long drive, the ominous weather, and the dark start to go to Titanite Hill west of Bancroft. Our guide George Thompson took us to a spot on top of the hill where we collected an abundance of jet-black Hornblende crystals up to two inches long. After three hours, it started to rain, and we called it a day. That is a locality we will be returning to next year.

The following Saturday was a beautiful day, and a large group turned out for the Quadville quarries. The road to the Rose Quartz mine is getting rough and flooded, but we all made it. After two hours, we went over to the Beryl pit where the floor of the quarry had recently been cleaned, creating a brand new pile. I was finding an abundance of peristerite in the pile, which I was giving away to everyone around me.

**The Pattersons have put both quarries up for sale. For further details, please contact Dave Patterson at [aquarose@nexicom.net](mailto:aquarose@nexicom.net).**

## Vesuvianite (aka Idocrase)

Vesuvianite is a calcium aluminum silicate that can be green, brown, yellow, or blue. It was first discovered on Mount Vesuvius, hence the name. It forms tetragonal crystals in deposits of coarse-grained metamorphic rocks rich in calcium-magnesium-iron-manganese-aluminium silicate minerals (skarns) and limestones that have been subjected to contact metamorphism (e.g. intrusion of magma). It is often found with garnet, wollastonite, or diopside.

The crystals are brittle and break with a conchoidal fracture. Vesuvianite has Mohs hardness of 6.5 and specific gravity of 3.4, though some varieties have different values.

*Photo of Vesuvianite, courtesy of Wikimedia*



Members of the Vesuvianite Group include sky blue cyprine (copper impurities), jade-coloured californite, manganese-rich xanthite, and dark green wiluite from Siberia.

## OLMC Meeting Schedule

November 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 	3	4 	5
6	7	8 <b>Silversmith video call 19:00</b>	9	10	11 	12
13	14 	15	16 	17	18 	19 
20	21 <b>MIG video call 19:00</b>	22 <b>Silversmith video call 19:00</b>	23	24	25	26
27 	28	29	30 			

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# OLMC Membership Application

New Membership  Membership Renewal

Individual **\$20**

Family (2+ persons in the same residence) **\$30**

**Benefits:**

Monthly Newsletter

Newsletter advertisement: \$25 per year for members or \$55 for businesses  
(Ten quarter pages per year over ten newsletters).

Silversmith online meeting 2/month

Mineral Interest Group online monthly meeting

OLMC online auctions

OLMC field trips

*More information can be found at <http://www.olmc.ca>  
You can also go on our Facebook page: [OttawaLapsmithandmineralclub](http://www.facebook.com/OttawaLapsmithandmineralclub)*

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P. O. Box 59028 Alta Vista, Ottawa, On K1G

5T7

*Please note that all membership information is used only for administrative purposes.*

Administration use only

Card provided:  Yes  No

Supervisor signed:  Yes  No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_